

Message Text

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AFR/ESA - MR. KNOLL (SUBS)

AF - MR. EASUM

S/S - DMILLER

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R 132306Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BC, US

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT KHAMA LETTER ON BOTZAM ROAD
NAIROBI FOR REDSO

1. RESPONSE TO FEBRUARY 4 LETTER TO SECRETARY FROM PRESIDENT KHAMA ON BOTZAM ROAD BEING POUCHED. (LETTER SIGNED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH, WHOM VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE SAW). TEXT FOLLOWS. EMBASSY REQUESTED SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA OR VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE, AS APPROPRIATE, TO CONVEY TEXT IN ADVANCE, INDICATING THAT LETTER ON WAY BUT THAT WE HAVE NO WISH TO DELAY NEXT STEPS GOB MAY WISH TO TAKE REGARDING ROAD.

2. QUOTE "DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS ASKED ME TO REPLY TO YOUR LETTER TO HIM OF FEBRUARY 4, 1974, DESCRIBING THE EFFECTS ON BOTSWANA OF THE PRESENT SOUTHERN AFRICAN OIL EMBARGO AND ASKING OUR ASSISTANCE IN UPGRADING THE NATA-KAZUNGULA ROAD FROM THE PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATED
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GRAVEL SURFACE TO A BITUMEN SURFACE. AS YOU KNOW, OTHER SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO

DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE FOR THE ROAD, ALONG WITH OTHER MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST, WITH VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 13-16.

THE FIRST LOAN AGREEMENT FOR THE ROAD WAS SIGNED BY OUR

TWO GOVERNMENTS IN 1972, FOR SOME \$12.6 MILLION. THIS AMOUNT WAS INCREASED BY \$4 MILLION IN 1973 TO COVER ANTICIPATED COST OVERRUNS. FROM YOUR LETTER AND MY DISCUSSIONS WITH VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE, I AM FULLY AWARE OF HOW STRONGLY YOU FEEL BOTSWANA NEEDS THIS IMPROVEMENT.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARE UNDER SEVERE CONSTRAINTS IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES. THE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE THIS YEAR ARE INSUFFICIENT TO MEET ALL REQUESTS. COMPETING AND EQUALLY COMPELLING NEEDS FOR DIMINISHED FUNDS INCREASE RATHER THAN DECREASE. WE ARE LEFT IN A POSITION WHERE VERY DIFFICULT CHOICES MUST BE MADE.

AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF BOTSWANA'S REQUEST, I REGRET TO SAY THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE TO PROVIDE THE ADDITIONAL FINANCING REQUIRED TO PAVE THE NATA-KAZUNGULA ROAD. THE \$16.6 MILLION COVERED BY OUR EXISTING LOAN WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROAD TO THE ORIGINAL SPECIFICATIONS. HOWEVER, SHOULD FUNDING FOR PAVING BE AVAILABLE TO YOUR GOVERNMENT FROM OTHER SOURCES, WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO USE OUR LOAN FUNDS AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HIGHER-STANDARD ROAD UNDER A PARALLEL FINANCING ARRANGEMENT.

I AM PERSONALLY DISTRESSED THAT OUR AVAILABLE FUNDS ARE INSUFFICIENT TO PERMIT US TO OFFER THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING YOU REQUIRE. MY CONVERSATIONS WITH VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE PROVIDED ME WITH A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF BOTSWANA'S SITUATION THAN I HAD BEFORE. WE VALUE VERY HIGHLY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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CLOSE COOPERATION AND GOOD RELATIONS WE ENJOY WITH YOUR COUNTRY. WE HOPE THESE RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND PROSPER AS ELEMENTS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE U.S. BECOME MORE AWARE OF BOTSWANA'S IMPORTANT POTENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. " UNQUOTE

LETTER SHOULD BE DATED MARCH 13. KISSINGER

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